

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

~~1-24. (Canceled)~~

1 25. (new) A method of making a circular blade for cutting
2 a moving material web, the blade having a steel cutting edge;
3 coating a surface of the cutting edge by means of plasma
4 with foreign ions to a depth between 50 μm and 500 μm .

1 26. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25
2 wherein the depth is between 100 μm and 200 μm .

D2 1 27. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25,
2 further comprising the step of
3 imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to
4 1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

1 28. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 27
2 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200 HV.

1 29. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25
2 wherein at least the cutting edge is formed of a heat-treated
3 steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 30. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25
2 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-treated steel, a high-
3 speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 31. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25
2 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen, carbon, molybdenum,
3 tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

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1 32. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 31
2 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten ions in the foreign
3 ions is greater than a portion of titanium ions.
